

**--CLAIM OF BENEFIT TO PRIOR APPLICATIONS**

B1  
This application is a continuation application of United States Patent  
Application entitled "Recursive Partitioning Placement Method and  
Apparatus," filed on December 6, 2000, and having the Serial No.  
09/732,181.--

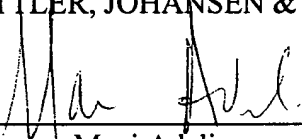
**REMARKS**

This Second Preliminary Amendment supplies the serial number of the parent  
application in the claim of benefit. The original claim of benefit was included in the first  
Preliminary Amendment that was submitted with the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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